

Netters ready to start season

The 1978-79 edition of CCC men's basketball looks to be fast and exciting. Coach Len Tirrill's Cougars have been practicing all fall, preparing for their season opener against Mt. Hood next Wednesday. Tirrill's 1977 team was just over 500 last year but won 10 of their last 12 games.

Returning for the Cougs are 6-4 forward Dan Slick and 5-10 guard Tom Tirrill. Slick, first team all-conference last year with a 20.4 scoring average, will do his share of shooting this year, too. Tirrill, CCC all-time single season assist leader, will handle the ball much of the time, setting up the offense from his point guard position.

Clackamas will have several newcomers this season. Leading candidates for starting spots include 6-3 Mike Murphy, sophomore transfer from Oregon State; freshman John Williams, 6-3 forward from Cleveland and Glenn John Dahl, 6-5 freshman from state AA champion, Parkrose.

Murphy, a Sam Barlow High School graduate, will give added punch to a lopsided Cougar offense. Williams, an NFL selection for the Indians, will add speed and agility to an already quick CCC team. Johndahl, a top rebounder and defensive leader for the Broncos, will step a great deal at the defensive end of the court.

This year's team has a tremendous amount of team speed, but lacks height to match up on the boards. For the

Cougs to do well, turnovers must be kept to a minimum. Shot selection must be good, too, because CCC won't get too many missed shots.

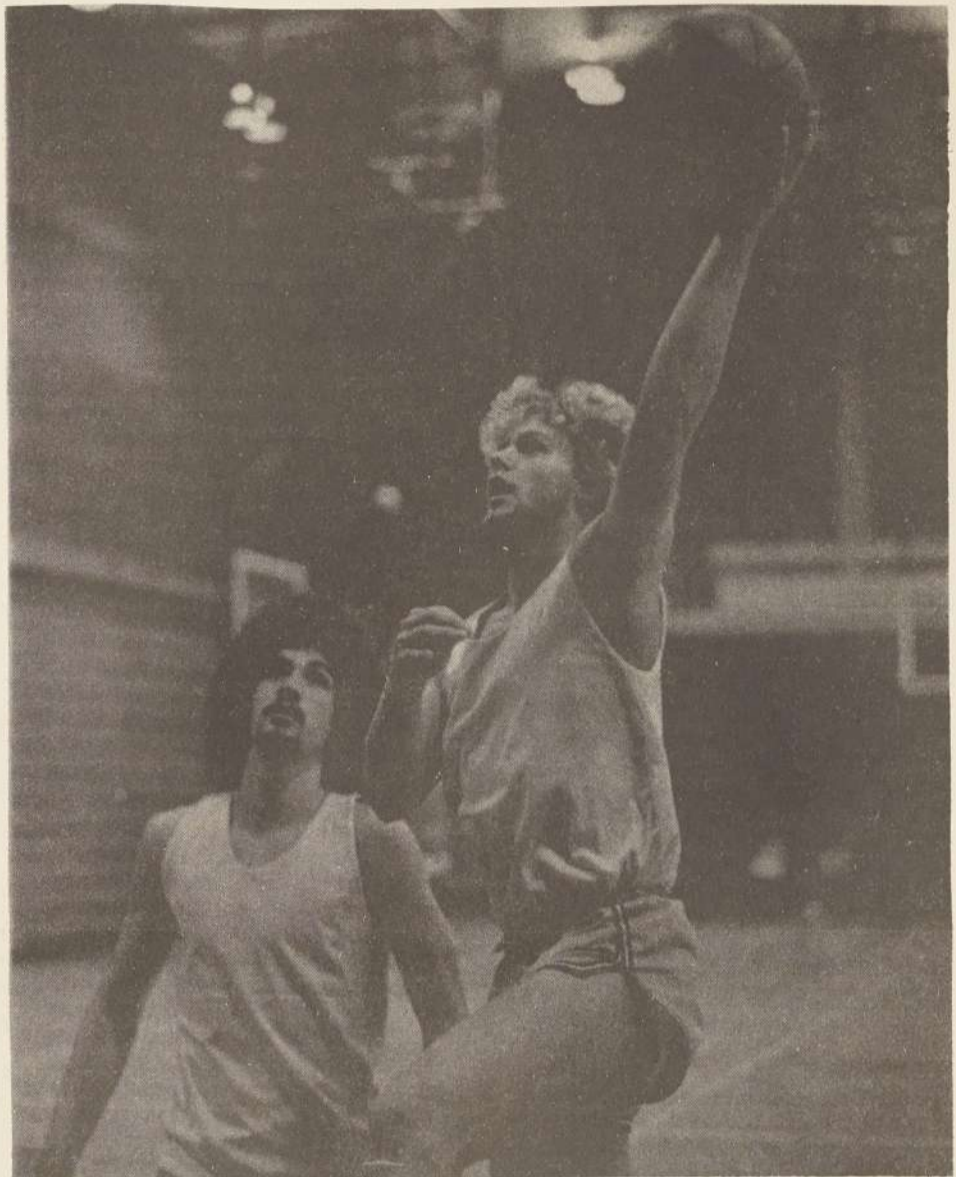
"We'll be very fast," said the freshman Williams. "Our success will depend on how well we rebound."

"We'll be as quick as anyone," added Tirrill, the coach's nephew. "If we handle the ball well, we'll be tough."

Other team members who could play key roles include Mark Schroeder, sophomore guard from Gladstone; Randy Worseck, swing man from Tigard; Jeff Newton, 6-0 guard from Clackamas High School and Len Northcutt, freshman guard from Newberg.

The Cougars have warmed up for this year by playing practice games against Dillinger's and Claudia's, two of the West's finest semi-pro teams. CCC lost both games, but their performance against Claudia's may be an indication of how good the Cougs can be. Clackamas lost 92-83, but Claudia's team includes ex-Portland Trailblazer Greg Smith and ex-Portland State stars Willie and Charlie Stadumire.

It is difficult to forecast just how well Clackamas will perform. Keys to the season will probably be Murphy and Slick. Murphy has been injured most of the fall and Slick is learning how to play better defense. If Murphy can stay healthy and Slick continues to improve on defense, the Cougars will be tough to beat.



Dan Slick and Tom Tirrill, the Cougars only returning starters, square off in a recent practice. Photo by Greg Kienzle

Dan Slick: Silent but super

By Mark McNeary
Print Sports Editor

Last season Dan Slick led his team in scoring with a 20.4 points per game average. He made the all-conference first team his freshman year at Clackamas, and, what's more, he still had one more year to play for the Cougars.

Well that year is here and not only is Slick back but he is ready. After playing in a summer league which included some of the Pacific Ten conference's better players, Slick has improved greatly.

"Dan has improved a great deal," Coach Len Tirrill said. "His overall strength has increased and he is a lot more physical than he was last year. Now Dan can be the best player in the conference if he wants to be, and he keeps improving."

Slick also feels he has improved but cites his jump shot as a major addition.

"I think I've improved," says Slick. "I played basketball all Wednesday, Nov. 29, 1978

summer and my jumpshot is a lot better. I lifted weights so I'm naturally more physical."

Not only has Slick's physical game improved but his attitude, one of extreme competitiveness, also adds to his overall game.

"No doubt about it, he is very competitive," said Tirrill of the 6'4" sophomore from Tigard. "He wants to win badly and expects a lot out of himself, but he is also very coachable. Dan is always willing to do what should be done and I would say he is enjoyable to coach."

Slick is working for the possibility of major college play but is hesitant to commit himself just yet.

"I would like to go on and play for a major college," said the personable forward, "but I'm not committing myself yet. I'm just waiting for a good opportunity."

Of course Slick would love to go on and play basketball for a bigger school but the question

of whether or not he is good enough still lingers. Coach Tirrill thinks he is.

"There is no question that Dan is one of the best ever to play at Clackamas," Tirrill said. "I'm sure he has the potential to play at a larger school. If he plays up to par, maybe even a major university."

"Dan is an excellent shooter and scorer and is consistent from fifteen to twenty feet out," Tirrill said. "I think that that mixture of talent and attitude will get him somewhere."

Slick also feels his attitude is a good one.

"I just go out and play my game and try not to put anybody else down," he said. "But with this year's team there won't be any need to put anybody down. We are a lot better team than last year, both off the bench and otherwise."

Slick is not the type of player who slaps others on the back for every little accomplishment nor is he the type who is always criticizing, but Tirrill feels he is

an adequate leader on the team.

"Dan has always given one-hundred percent and as a result he expects the rest of his teammates to do likewise. This sometimes creates the impression that his encouragement may be a little negative but that simply isn't so. He only does this because of his overwhelming intensity and aggressiveness. I would say that the way Dan plays is leadership enough for any team," Tirrill said.

There are a few other retur-

ners on the team and because of this Slick doesn't see a need to have to lead all the time.

"Sure, I try to lead because I'm a sophomore," he said "but there are some others who will lead when they have to."

Needless to say Dan Slick is a man of few words and much talent. Tonight Slick will once again put that talent to work for the Cougars as they play host to a rough and ready Mt. Hood club.

"We are definitely going to win," Slick said. "They talk a lot but talk's cheap."

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